

# J. V. FLETCHER LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

MEETING DATE: August 2, 2004

## PRESENT:

## ABSENT:

- √ Whitehouse, Veronica, Chair
- √ Price, Robert, Treasurer
- √ Wrobel, Jack, Secretary
- ☐ Daniels, David
- √ Adams, Elizabeth
- ☐ Kelly, Sandra
- √ Rainville, Ellen Director
- √ Nolen, India Asst. Director

- ☐ Whitehouse, Veronica, Chair
- ☐ Price, Robert, Treasurer
- ☐ Wrobel, Jack, Secretary
- √ Daniels, David
- ☐ Adams, Elizabeth
- √ Kelly, Sandra
- ☐ Rainville, Ellen Director
- ☐ Nolen, India Asst. Director

## I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:40 PM

## II. SIGNING OF WARRANTS:

<i>Trust Fund</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Deposits</i>
Library Trustee Acct., #672	\$350.00 for membership renewals	
All Purpose Trust Fund, #673		
Library Book Fund, #674		
Lecture Trust Fund, #675		
J. V. Fletcher Library Trust Acct., #676	\$600.00 for Trustee Manual CD	\$22.41 Xcel dividends
E.D.R. Cont. Educ. Trust Fund, #677		

## III. MINUTES: 6/7/04

A. Approved:   X  

B. Amended:       

C. Disapproved:       

## IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT:

There was no Treasurer's Quarterly Report this month.

**V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR:**

- a) Personnel Questionnaires and Position Descriptions for all Library non-union positions were submitted to the Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC) for review as part of the Town-wide pay and classification study for presentation to the Fall 2004 Special Town Meeting. (Note: Trustee Jack Wrobel is a member of the PAC and will abstain in discussion of any Library position.)
- b) The Library abutter requested removal of dying cedars along the common boundary because he would like to bring in heavy equipment to repair his failing septic system.
- c) Inter Library Loans have increased 144% since 2001.
- d) The Police Department has some excess equipment, e.g., computers and printers, which the Director is investigating for Library use.
- e) The Annual Report Information Survey (ARIS) are due to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) in September. This is the formal report on all of the Library statistics.

**VI. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

- a) Finance Committee – a TD Waterhouse brokerage account has been established into which the Trustees plan to transfer its stock and mutual fund holdings.
- b) Policy Committee –
  - 1) Statement on the USA Patriot Act - Second Reading: R. Price moved, seconded by L. Adams and unanimously approved motion to submit the statement and associated resolution to the Board of Selectmen for consideration at the Fall 2004 Special Town Meeting (copy attached –).
  - 2) Policy on Sales – Second Reading: L. Adams moved, seconded by V. Whitehouse and unanimously approved revised policy reflecting the Library Trustees discretion to approve use of Library property for sale of items by non-profit groups other than the Library or Friends of the Library.

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a) A request was made to the Board of Selectmen to approve a waiver to the Town-wide hiring freeze to allow the Library to hire a Library Page.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a) The Director previewed the newly published CD version of the Trustees' Manual and copies were distributed to all Trustees. The intent is to update the CD annually.
- b) The Trustees signed contracts for the Director and Assistant Director for a three-year term, thereby achieving one of the Board's annual goals.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

Jack Wrobel moved, seconded by V. Whitehouse and unanimously approved use of up to \$75 from the Trustee Book Fund to purchase books to honor the birth of Thomas Warren, son of former Administrative Assistant Karen Warren.

**X. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

R. Price reported on the Friends of the Library activities.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn was made by R. Price, seconded by L. Adams and unanimously approved at 9:10pm.



**WHEREAS:**

- The elected Trustees of the J. V. Fletcher Library, are instructed by their By-Laws (1990) to establish and implement policy that requires them to protect “free expression and free access to ideas,” and proclaim that “the freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution;”
- The voters of Westford hereby reaffirm the fundamental and inalienable civil liberties secured by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the U.S. Constitution for all people, including the rights to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures, and due process of law;
- Provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act (“the Act”) and associated federal executive orders are assaults on these long-cherished civil liberties; and
- As a great Massachusetts-born patriot, Benjamin Franklin, so well stated, “They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

Accordingly:

We strongly protest those provisions (Sect. 215/218) in the Act of Congress called “The Patriot Act” (Oct. 25, 2001) which permit the Federal Government to seize and inspect the library’s records of materials our patrons have borrowed and of internet websites they have consulted. Especially as *no patron may be informed of an investigation of his/her borrowing or internet records*, the chilling effect of this Act is all the more destructive of free access to our library’s resources.

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that “Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press...”

The Supreme Court has ruled (381 U.S. 301, 1965) that this precious Amendment protects the right of access to what the press publishes, no less than it protects the right to publish. In Justice Brennan's words: "It would be a barren marketplace of ideas that had only sellers and no buyers."

A climate of fear has no place in a public library.

*Approved by the J. V. Fletcher Library Board of Trustees, August 2, 2004.*